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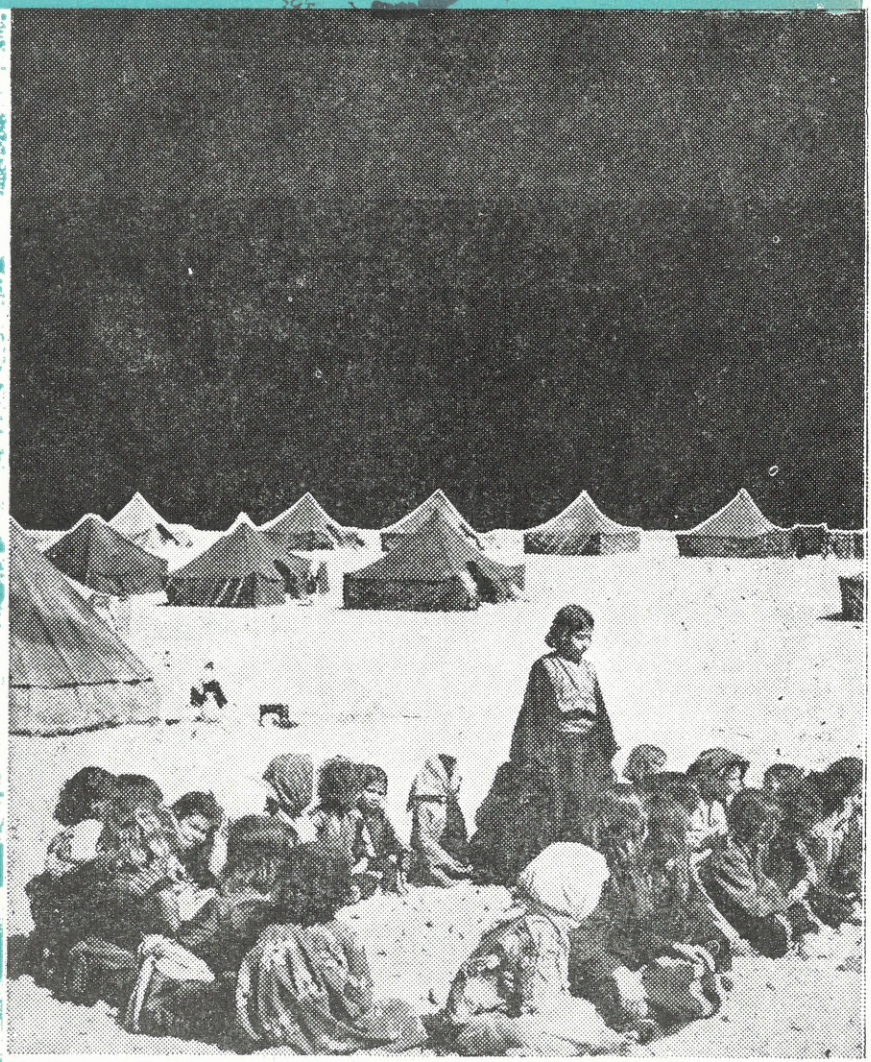

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SUMMARY

MILITARIST NEO COLONIALISM IN AFRICA AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

At present, an accelerated process of definition of social forces and the respective regrouping of these forces is developing on the African continent.

In one out of every four of the 32 countries of Black Africa, the army men are the ones who hold power.

In only three months, native officers —loyal to various centers of control— threw six civil governments out of power.

On the 25th of November, 1965, executioner Joseph Mobutu deposed Kasabuvu, his ex-partner in crime and injustice.

On the 22nd of December, 1965, Colonel Soglo of the Republic of Dahomey assumed dictatorial powers.

On the 1st of January, 1966, Colonel Bojassa of the Central-African Republic (formerly Ubanqui Chari) destituted his cousin Dacko.

On the 16th of January, 1966, General Ironsi took over the government of Nigeria, after rebelling soldiers killed Primer Minister Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. Shortly afterwards, Ironsi was also to perish for the same reasons. Kabubu Gowon succeeded him.

On the 4th of January, 1966, Major General Lamizana of Upper Volta exiled the then Chief of Staff Yameogo.

On the 24th of February, the Army and the Police of Ghana overthrew President Kwame Nkrumah, when he was absent from the country. General Ankrah was to take charge of the government.

At the end of 1966, two more coups d'etat occurred: In November, Lt. Colonel Etienne Guassigbe Eyadema got rid of the Togolese president Nicholas Grunitzky. In December, pro-South African Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan seized all power in Lesotho.

An attempted coup d'etat also occurred in the Congo Brazzaville, which was crushed by the mobilization of the popular forces against the conspirators.

There are cases in which this reversal to colonial status, has been almost flawless. Most of the army who have taken over the government are faithful and disciplined servants of the colonial powers which, a few years ago, with a clever demagogical trick, granted a formal independence to many of these countries rather than to have to face a revolution.

General Ankrah of Ghana was, for example, a member of the British Army during the Burma and Second World War campaigns. He later commanded one of the interventionist units of the U.N. in the Congo Leopoldville.

Laminaza of Upper Volta fought together with the French in Indochina. His colleague Soglo of Dahomey was appointed Lieutenant in the French Army during the Second World War.

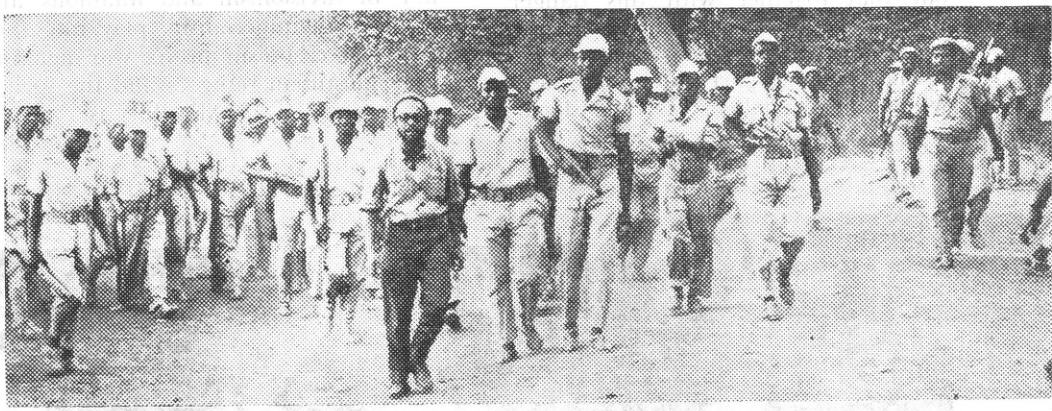
A small native caste characterized by its love for the pomp, luxury, orgies and sensual extravaganzas which the colonialists, whom they have partially replaced, enjoyed, can be found in these African countries that are facing colonialist resurgence.

When they travel, the parliamentary servants in the Congo Leopoldville receive a daily allowance of 400 marks (six times more than what a working man earns in the province of Kasai in a month).

The ex-president Yameogo of Upper Volta, a country with scarcely 15 Kms. of asphalt paved highways, bought a Mercedes 600 in West Germany and ordered the building of a palace with a gigantic swimming-pool at a cost of 4 million marks. Needless to say the Mercedes 600, the swimming-pool and the palace were seized by force by Major General Lamizana.

In these republics the native castes have followed the dissolute colonialist pattern. They draw equal or higher salaries than those the white officials used to draw, besides the considerable graft.

In Nigeria, for example, the top-ranking bureaucrats earn as much as 34,000 marks a year and live in the elegant bungalows on the exclusive Ikoyi Island which the British interventionists abandoned.



"European refinement", they say. "Treason", the hungry people shout.

If on one hand the tendency to a neo-colonislist native militarism is gaining strength on the continent, on the other hand the guerrilla and progressive movement are taking deeper root by the day.

Portugal is in a blind alley in the face of the revolutionary tidal wave that is shaking its colonial foundations. Salazar, in order to resist this insurgent tide, has raised the military budget to over 46 million 900 thousand

pounds sterling destined for the "overseas provinces", while the Portuguese troops sent to the African outposts total 100 thousand. The military service has been extended from 18 months to 4 years.

In Guinea Bissau, in Angola, in Mozambique, the liberating torch is glowing everywhere. Meanwhile, in the Congo (L), Pierre Mulele has entrenched himself in the region of Kiwu, where he resists the detachments of Mobutu.

It is also vitally important to point out that together with this danger, there are too the increasing aggressiveness of racist white powers located in the southern part of the continent, who have "apartheid" as their slogan.

South African policy is directed towards the creation of a "white belt", in which the Rhodesian regime plays an important role in dominating the southern part of the continent. De facto, already a structural collusion exists between South Africa and Rhodesia, whihch is reflected in their unlimited desire for territorial expansionism.

Meanwhile, to the north, contradictions have sharpened between progressive Arab states and the feudal and backward ones which, with their policy of divisionism and infamous alliance with imperialism, play into the hands of Zionism in its war against the Palestinian refugees and the social revolutions in the Middle East.

PALESTINE

THE DRAMA OF A PEOPLE

For nineteen years the Arab population of Palestine has been the victim of the aggression and evictions perpetrated by a nation that has installed itself **de facto** on Arab land. More than one million Palestinians have been expelled, persecuted, and deprived of their property, their farms, their dwellings, and at times, even their lives because of Zionist expansionism.

Nevertheless, the problem of the Arab refugees in Palestine did not begin precisely on May 14, 1948, when the State of Israel was "proclaimed". As early as November, 1917, Arthur James Balfour, then British Foreign Secretary, issued the so-called **Balfour-Declaration** in which "His Majesty's Government favorably considers the establishment in Palestine of a National Jewish State and will expend all efforts to achieve that objective..."

When the British Foreign Secretary signed this document, more than 90% of the population of Palestine was Arab, while the Jewish population did not exceed 60,000, of whom only 5% were native-born Palestinian Jews.

PALESTINE

After the British declaration tacitly recognizing the creation of a Jewish nation in secularly Arab land, the international Zionist movement —this time on a large scale— began to introduce Jews in British-occupied territory as a result of the distribution of the Middle East among the victorious imperialist powers at the end of World War I. Later, during the period from 1918 to the beginning of World War II, the British Government facilitated the entry and establishment in Palestine of thousands of Zionists. Nevertheless, during thirty years of British occupation and government in Palestine, the Zionists were able to purchase only 3½% of this territory, with much of the land being transferred to Zionist corporations directly by the British. At the end of World War II, Great Britain, in accordance with its promise of 1917, allowed thousands of Jews to enter Palestine by virtue of an agreement with several international Zionist organizations. The British Government submitted the Palestine problem to the United Nations in 1947.

In spite of the fact that the Zionists owned only 6% of the total area of Palestine, the General Assembly recommended that a "Jewish State" be established in the region, guaranteeing such a State almost 54% of the country's total area.

Upon the creation of Israel in Palestine, the people of Palestine begin to suffer depradations. Thousands of Arabs are persecuted, expelled from their lands, their property confiscated, and thousands die at the hands of fascist groups organized by international Zionism.

The Arab states take up the cause of the defenseless and persecuted population of Palestine. Bloody clashes take place in the region, until the United Nations achieves a general armistice in 1949.

As a result of the cease-fire, persecution is intensified against the Palestinian Arabs, of whom more than 500,000 begin an exodus to neighboring Arab countries. Thus, the incipient state of Israel already constituted a wedge in the heart of the region, in open collaboration with the imperialist powers.

The problem of the Palestinian is still dramatically alive today. Data published by the United Nations in 1960 reveal that the number of refugees passes the million-mark.

The Palestinians live in pitiful conditions in the refugee camps.

Faced with imperialist penetration in the Middle East as represented by Israel, the people of Palestine have risen up to combat Zionist domination. In order to defend their rights and reconquer their confiscated lands and goods, the Palestinians look to the Organization for the Liberation of Palestine.

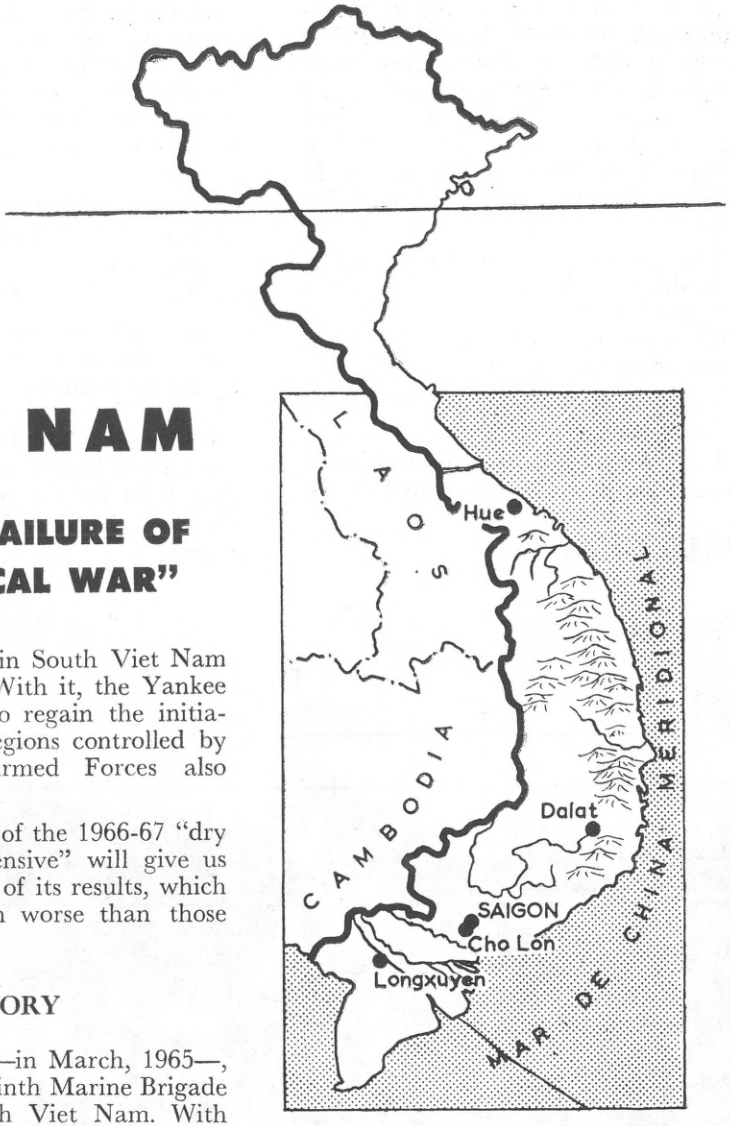
The Organization has as its task the liberation of the territories usurped by Zionism and the reestablishment of the Palestinians in their secular lands.

In reply to the constant armed aggressions of Israel, the aid supplied by the imperialist powers and the maneuvers of international Zionism, headed by the Jewish financial groups of the United States, the people of Palestine, fight for the reconquest of their violated rights and an end to this drama.

PALESTINE

VIET NAM

SECOND FAILURE OF THE "LOCAL WAR"



The dry season in South Viet Nam draws to an end. With it, the Yankee counter-offensive to regain the initiative and certain regions controlled by the Liberation Armed Forces also comes to an end.

A quick analysis of the 1966-67 "dry season counter-offensive" will give us a clear perspective of its results, which were perhaps even worse than those of the past year.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Two years ago —in March, 1965—, 5,500 men of the Ninth Marine Brigade were sent to South Viet Nam. With this landing, the massive sending of Yankee soldiers and units was begun.

The aggression, up to then carried out within the framework of the strategic concept of "Special War" —using a puppet army with American advisers—, was converted into a "Local War"— using American soldiers to fight with the support of puppet forces and mercenaries from their countries.

Selected units were sent to South Viet Nam, the First Air Mobile Cavalry Division among them —a creation of Defense Secretary Robert McNamara for the anti-guerrilla struggle— and

the First Infantry Division, that had won honors during the Second World War.

With 200 thousand American soldiers plus 600 thousand more between puppets and mercenaries —from South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, etc.— the Yankee comand in South Viet Nam started the first "dry season counter-offensive".

Objectives: To obtain a few victories over small units of the Liberation Armed Forces in order to encourage the Saigon puppet Army and, at the same time, to inject the American forces that had just arrived with a dose of "invincibility". Those actions were also to have been aimed at regaining some territories and at opening up some channels of communication in the hands of the LAF.

According to the estimates of the American strategists, 800 thousand soldiers provided a proportion in the correlation of forces, whereby "the Viet-Cong should be annhilated".

Among the important "clean-up operations" unleashed were those of Van Tuong, Pleimé and Bau Bang, widely separated points on the South Vietnamese map, the first two quite a ways from Saigon.

However, the tactical calculations worked out in offices were soon blown to bits by the LAF's firm determination to struggle and to win victory:

—In Van Tuong (17 kilometers south of the Chu Lai Base) the Marines met their first great defeat.

—In the zone of Pleimé, McNamara's "air cavalry men" met a similar fate.

—And in Bau Bang, the First Infantry Division was no better off.

In conclusion: The U.S. plans for the 1965-66 dry season toppled like a house of cards.

THE SECOND ATTEMPT

The second great U.S. attempt in its "Local War" takes place in the present dry season. The objectives are the same plus, the lifting of the blockade around Saigon and the establishment of a "beachhead" in the Mekong River Delta in order to bring in American soldiers there too.

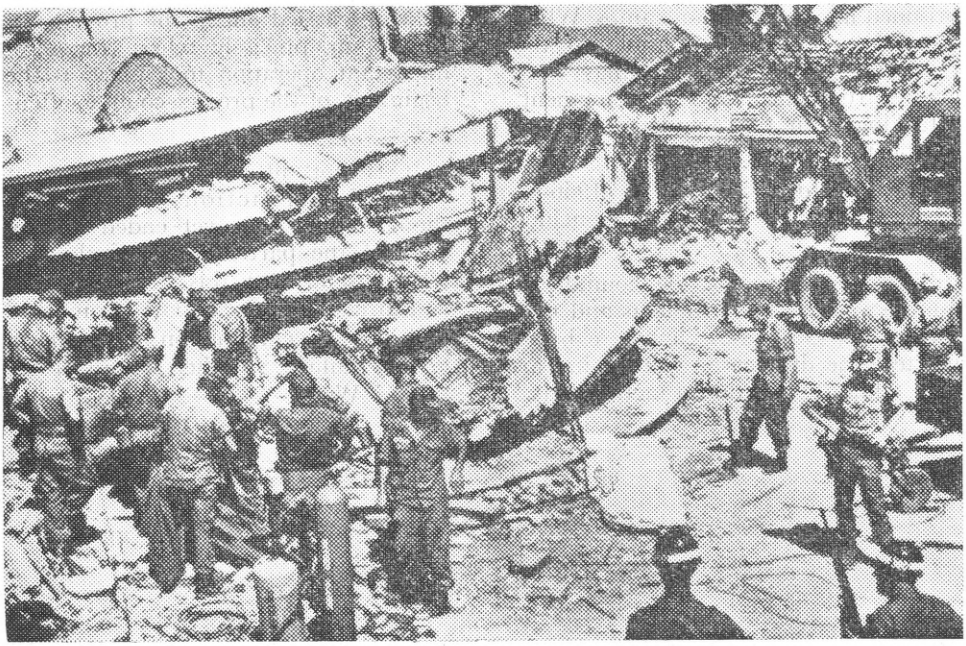
The first phase of the 1966-67 "dry season counter-offensive" ended in complete failure last November with "Operation Attleboro" in the province of Tay Ninh, on the Cambodian border.

For the second phase all the forces were reorganized —the American forces as well as the puppet and mercenary forces— to be used in three key operations:

1.—In the zone of U Minh in the Mekong River Delta. Objective: To prepare the conditions for an "invasion of Yankee paratroops in a zone of the Delta infested by the enemy". 10 thousand puppet soldiers were used in this operation, described as "the greatest attack of the war".

2.—"Operation Deckhouse-5" described as an "historic process", aimed at "forcing the Viet-Cong out of a vital zone" and at winning an important victory. For it 4 thousand American soldiers and puppet "Marines" were mobilized with the support of amphibious tanks, planes and ships of the Seventh Fleet off the coasts of the district of Thanh Phu, in the province of Ben Tre, also in the Delta and in the southern gateway to Saigon. The operation was directed by Generals Westmoreland and Wallace, Chiefs of the U.S. Command and of the U.S. Marines Corps respectively, in South Viet Nam.

3.—"Cedar Falls", for which 30 thousand American soldiers were used under the direct command of General Westmoreland, aimed at cleaning a broad zone to the north of Saigon held by the LAF.



For each and every one of these operations there was plenty of publicity, all taken care of by the huge American propaganda machine.

RESULTS

In short, the results of each of the aforementioned operations can be summarized as follows:

1.—In U Minh, after three days of search, the 10 thousand puppet soldiers could neither find anyone nor destroy anyone. And that zone of the Delta continues to be a territory controlled by the LAF.

2.—When dozens of 35-ton amphibious tanks were launched on the coasts of Than Phu, many of them remained buried in the mud of the rice paddies. Throughout the operation —from the 6th to the 15th of January— the American-puppet troops were continuedly attacked by surprise suffering serious casualties. Neither could the planned objective be reached and, after 10 days searching uselessly for an invisible enemy that attacked when it was least expected, "the various battalions involved in the operation killed an average of two 'Viet-Congs' per day", as sarcastically commented by the AFP on the 16th of January.

3.—"Operation Cedar Falls", in the area of Ben Cat, in the province of Thu Dau Mot, witnessed new tactics. Besides four days of artillery preparation, of intense bombings with strategic B-52's and 400 attacks with other kinds of planes, bull-dozers were used to completely level a forest region. The bull-dozers demolished houses, crops and other property of the 6 thousand inhabitants of that region who were im-

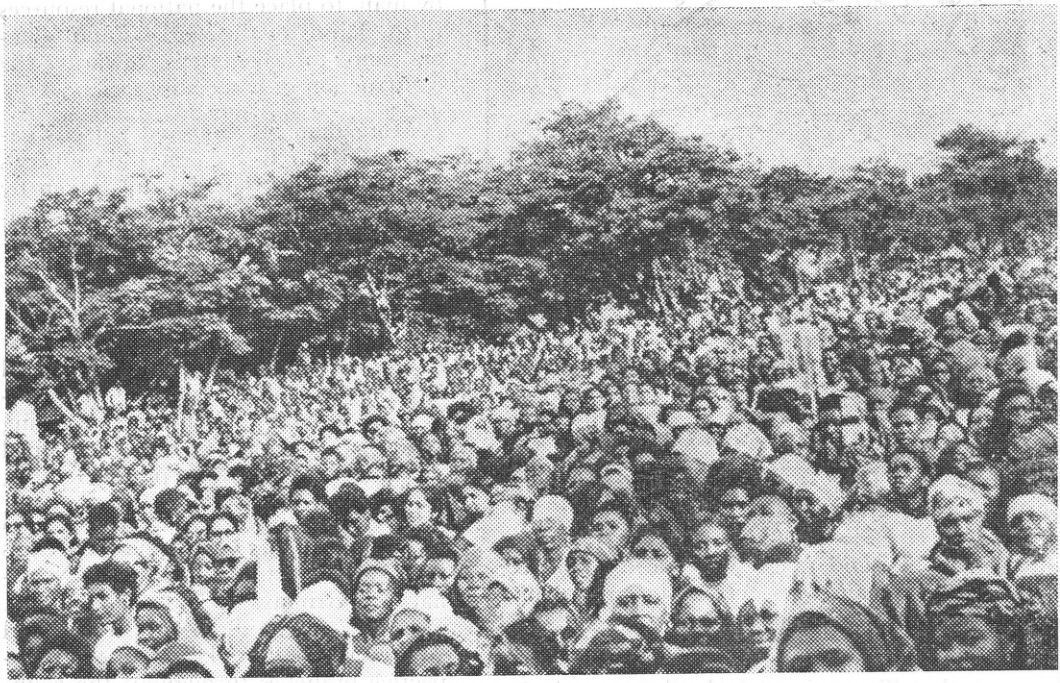
prisoned in concentration camps. While the enemy remained invisible to the American troops, the guerrillas were active from the very first moment, attacking even the command post of the operation.

The second phase of the 1966-67 "dry season counter-offensive" concluded this way.

The third phase of the counter-offensive will bring new defeats and useless searches. As these lines are being written, the dry season is reaching an end, while "Operation Junction City" is being carried out in the province of Tay Ninh, precisely where the most important operation took place at the beginning of the present counter-offensive.

It is not difficult to predict that "Operation Junction City", even though it has not yet ended and in spite of the participation of close to 40 thousand men this time, will also end in disaster for the U.S. Command and in the culmination of an even greater failure: Another failure of the "Local War".

TANZANIA



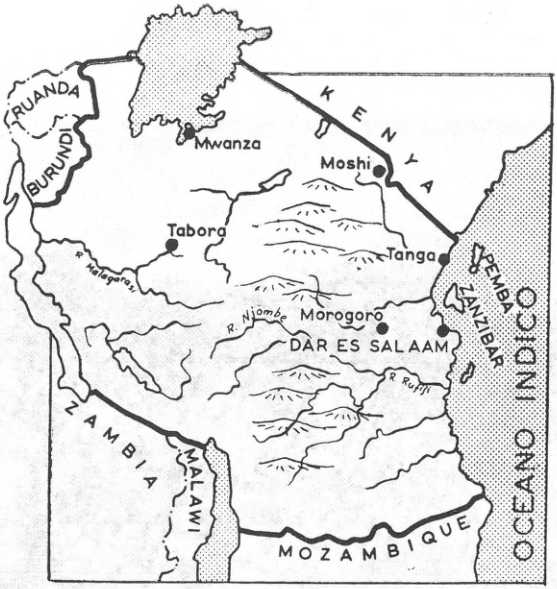
NATIONALIZACION AND SOVEREIGNTY

On February 5th of this year, the Tanzanian Government announced its decision to carry out to its final consequences the measures outlined in the "Arusha Declaration", as a decisive step towards the elimination of the exploitation of man by man, and the building of a socialist society on a well defined ideological basis.

The "Arusha Declaration" is the result of ample discussion within the National Executive Committee of the "Tanganyika African National Union" Party (TANU) at a meeting held on January 29th of this year in the city of Arusha.

The document deals with fundamental aspects of the Tanzanian economy and it profoundly analyzes party tactics —before and after the country achieved its independence— as well as the errors and achievements of its policy during recent years.

In one of its fundamental parts, the Declaration refers to the imperialist methods of penetration in the country, through gifts, foreign loan and invest-



ments, and stresses the need to block these maneuvers which seriously compromise national sovereignty.

Further on, it acknowledges the fact that Tanzania, principally an agricultural country, had mistaknely taken the road to industrialization and recommends an immediate change to farm production.

One of the questions stressed in the Declaration is the policy of "Socialism and self-confidence".

This concept establishes national responsibility for raising production to satisfy the needs of the country, after first controlling the means of production; it calls for systematic government aid in applying new agricultural techniques and using farm equipment and machinery to insure an accelerated development of the economy.

Through the general analysis and specific observations on these questions the Declaration reaches the conclusion that the only way to bring social liberation to the great Tanzanian masses is to eliminate the exploitation of man by man, to place the national resources in the hands of the workers and farmers and to take steps towards the construction of a socialist society.

More than 50 thousand persons gathered in Dar Es Salaam, the country's capital, to hail the measures taken by the Government. Similar demonstrations were held on the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, which form a part of Tanzanian territory.

With the nationalization of the most important foreign banking firms' real estate valued—according to estimates—at more than 50 million pounds sterling the most general measures contained in the Declaration were put into effect.

The first foreign enterprises affected by the measures were the "Barclays Bank", "The Standard Bank", "National and Grinlays", "National Bank of Pakistan", "The Bank of India" and "The Bank of Boroda", with their respective branches throughout the country.

Along with this decision, the government announced the taking of similar actions against 8 food companies and the principal insurance companies, as well as the establishment of a state monopoly over import-export operations.

In order to guarantee the consolidation of the measures adopted, the Tanzanian Parliament met on February 14th and approved a series of complementary laws. These laws provide for the establishment of a State Commercial Society, control over agricultural production through the National Council of Agricultural Products, and the creation of a National Bank of Commerce.

On the 21st of that month, some 700 members of TANU gathered again to discuss the introduction of substantial changes in the organization's statutes to serve as a basis for converting it into a vanguard party of the workers and farmers.

In the face of the threat made by the "Barclays Bank" to withdraw its technicians from Tanzania, the Government began to prepare a group of workers and students, capable of occupying the posts abandoned by the foreigners at the service of these firms. This way the functioning of the banks was guaranteed and the internal reactionary forces were defeated in their attempt to obstruct the financial activities of the country.

The National Bank of Commerce, on the other hand, announced the establishment of relations with more than 80 banking firms in 47 nations, while the people gave more proofs of their support for the government's actions.

And if there was any doubt left as to the real objectives of Tanzania, on February 28th its Head of State reiterated that, despite the imperialist maneuvers, the people were determined to face the consequences of their struggle to achieve total independence.

MISSIONARIES OF IMPERIALISM

It is a rare month when no incident related to the so-called U.S. "Peace Corps" takes place. Members of the Corps are expelled both by the university students of Latin America and by governments, such as that of Sekou Toure of Guinea. Why is this happening? According to Sargent Shriver, its first director, the aims of the organization are to aid in the maintaining of peace and friendship, to help the people fill their needs for skilled manpower and to contribute to the understanding between the U.S. and other countries. In short, there is no mention of espionage or ideological penetration. How-

ever, every day the facts give the lie to the empty phrases of Kennedy's brother-in-law.

As part of the global strategy of Yankee imperialism, military, political and economic espionage is closely related to ideological penetration and in reality, the Peace Corps is Washington's best instrument for ideological penetration.

Together with the Alliance for Progress, the Peace Corps was created in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy in his desire to offset the revolutionary example of Cuba.

These missionaries of imperialism have the tasks of mixing with the population of the country where they are sent, winning sympathy for their ideas so as to weaken anti-U.S. sentiment, and gathering information.

In 1964 the Peace Corps had more than 6,500 members scattered throughout 46 countries, 17 of which were Latin American. According to the plans announced by Jack Hood Vaughn, the Corps' present director, the number of missionaries is expected to reach 100,000 in the next few years. We can understand the scope of this program if we note that in Nigeria one of every three secondary-school students —around 50,000— receive instructions from the Peace Corps. What does this instruction consist of? Arthur Goodfried explains this in his work **The Twisted Image:** "It is a matter of creating a sector of persons with native blood and color, but of U.S. tastes, opinions, morals, and intellect".

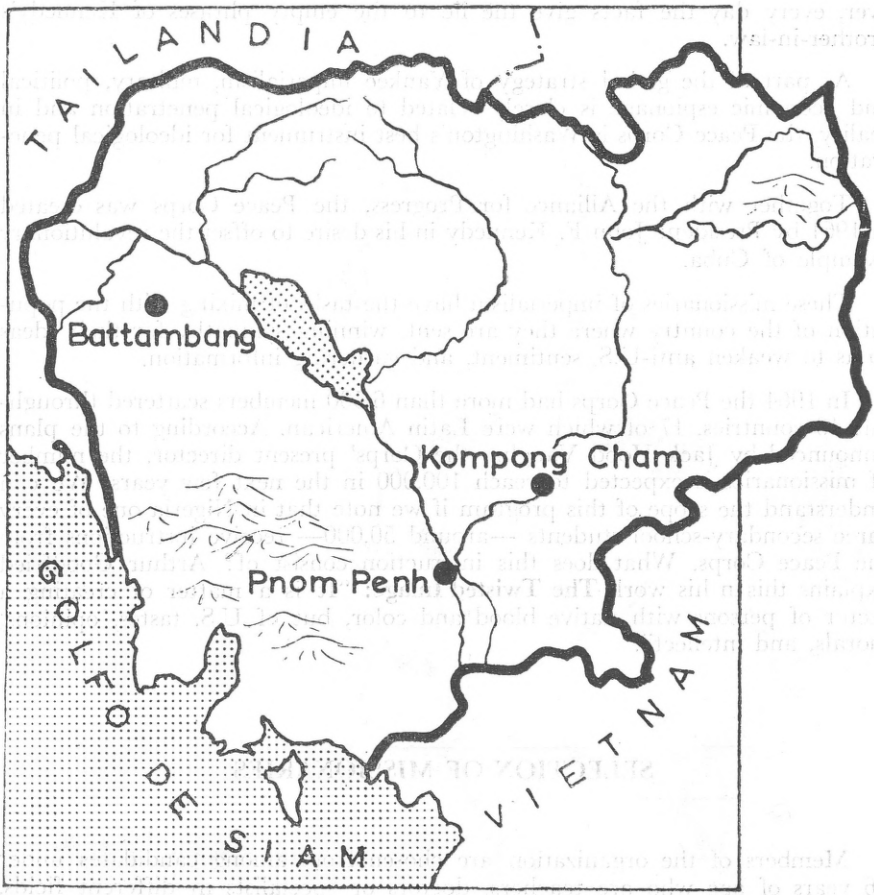
SELECTION OF MISSIONARIES

Members of the organization are chosen from among candidates under 26 years of age who are teachers, doctors or specialists in different fields. As Shriver explained before he turned over the post to Vaughn five out of every six aspirants are refused "because it is not enough to be young, cultured, healthy and meet certain technical standards; above all, it is mentality which interests us".

Coming from 133 U.S. cities where special committees meet, the "volunteers" are sent to colleges or universities to receive intensive courses in which anti-communist material holds a place of prime importance. Moreover, the new "missionary" studies the country where he will live —its geography, history, traditions and customs as well as its economic and political structure.

The young people selected become agents of the Central Intelligence Agency, with some acting as simple informers and others specializing in international intringue.

There is a good reason why Johnson takes every opportunity to praise the work of the Peace Corps and is generous with funds for the maintenance and growth of its operations.

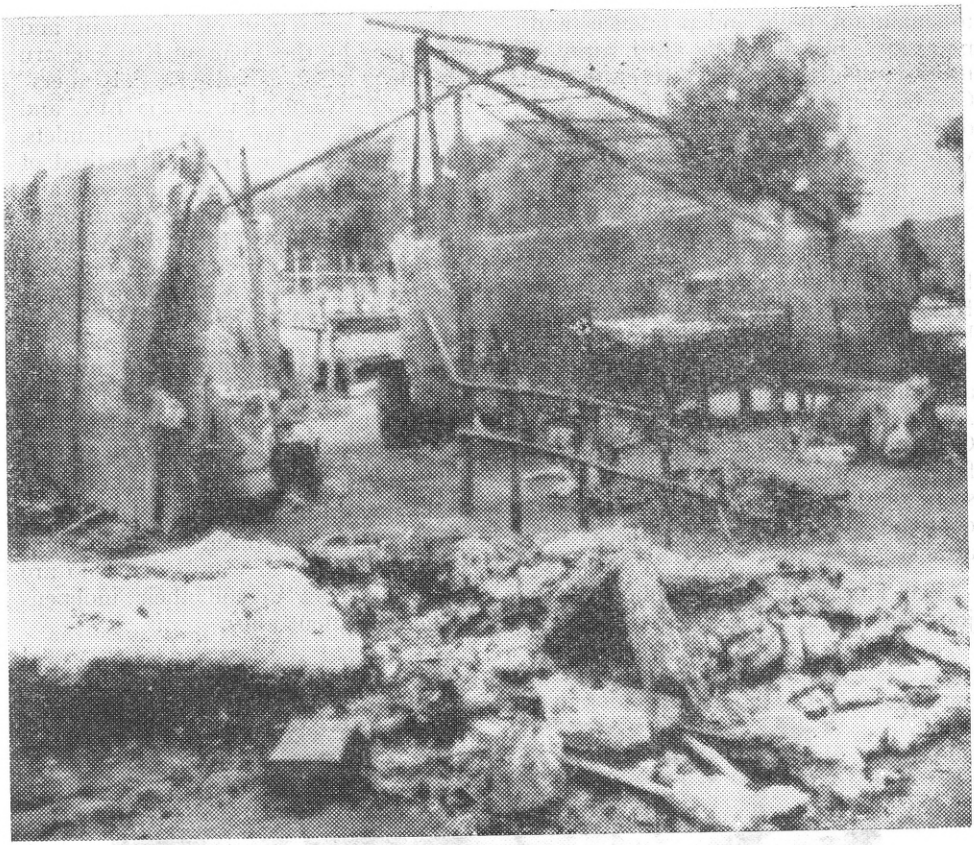


CAMBODIA IN THE FACE OF IMPERIALIST PROVOCATIONS

"The war in Viet Nam is turning more and more into a Cambodian war", Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian head of state, recently stated. Events are demonstrating the truth of this charge.

The figures are eloquent: From January 1, 1966, to November 30 of the same year, Yankee planes violated Cambodian air space 1,098 times. Very often, they dropped bombs, fired rockets and strafed hamlets near the South Viet Nam border. These actions are being perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists and the Saigon puppet regime, while Thai hirelings carry out provocations and acts of aggression.

During the month of January of this year, there were 86 violations of Cambodian air space and the Yankee soldiers and the Saigon puppet regime



troops carried out fifteen provocations and attacked border hamlets.

Why are these aggressions committed? What are the aims of the imperialists? The Cambodian government's policy of neutrality is an obstacle to the imperialist plans in the Indochina peninsula. With these aggressions, the Yankees are trying to force Cambodia to renounce its independence and its neutrality and to withdraw its support for the Vietnamese people's struggle.

The U.S. imperialists have intensified their air raids against the DRV, landed more troops in South Viet Nam, increased their crimes against the South Vietnamese population, and at the same time, have increased and intensified provocations and aggressions against the Kingdom of Cambodia.

For example, on February 20th, 60 helicopters dropped 200 paratroopers on Cambodian territory. On February 2nd, a Saigon puppet regime company attacked the Cambodian town of Vag Angong, the ensuing encounter with the local garrison lasting two hours. It would take many pages to give a detailed account of the attacks recently launched by the Yankees and their puppets.

However, not only has it been impossible for them to break the will of the Cambodian people and government

to maintain their independence and neutrality, but also they are beginning to be replied to in kind. Recently, the Cambodian anti-aircraft defenses shot down a plane and a helicopter that were violating Cambodian air space. They were part of a Yankee and Saigon squadron flying over Cambodia.

The U.S. imperialists have also used B-52 bombers in these attacks. The Kingdom of Cambodia accused the U.S. government of this new aggression. The attack took place on February 21st at Daung hamlet, in Svayieng province. All the members of the International Control Commission and a group of foreign newsmen were taken to the scene of the attack, so that they could confirm on the spot the fact of the attack.

The Thai puppets could not fail to join this gang of aggressors. Using Thailand as a base of operations and protected by the Thanom Kittikachorn regime, the so-called "Free Khmers" infiltrate Cambodian territory and launch attacks on towns and hamlets. They also use the criminal method of planting mines on Cambodian soil, and have caused the death of many civilians. On February 14th, the Minister of Information, Ung Mung, denounced the fact that this band of armed thugs kidnapped four workers.

In the face of provocations and aggression, the Cambodian people are closing ranks and loyally supporting the policy of Prince Sihanouk government.

The Yankee imperialists and their puppets have not been able to intimidate the people of Cambodia, who are determined to defend their independence and neutrality.

APPEALS AND MESSAGES

STATEMENT ON THE UNITED STATES AGGRESSION AGAINST CAMBODIA

The Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL has denounced the fact that the air raids perpetrated by U.S. strategic bombers against the Kingdom of Cambodian on February 21st constitute a "new and dangerous step forward in the long chain of aggressions and provocations by Yankee and Saigon puppet troops agains the Cambodian people".

The statement added that "in November, 1966, Yankee and South Vietnamese troops carried out an armed attack against the Prim Moteo border post, and a few days later, on December 30th, repeated the aggression against the hamlet of Ba Thu. On February 7th of this year, they attacked the hamlet of Sway A. Ngon, and more recently, on the 20th and 21st, penetrated deeply into Cambodian territory, machine-gunning and killing many civilians, while the artillery of the Saigon puppet regime opened fire on Cambodian territory, killing a number of people and causing considerable damage".

"There aggressive acts —the statement continued— are part of the U.S. imperialists' treacherous maneuvers to extend their war of aggression to Cambodia, in a vain attempt to curb their increasingly numerous setbacks and the stagnation of their operations on the South Vietnamese battle front. These aggressions —the document pointed out— constitute a brazen and open provocation against the Cambodian people and against all peace-loving nations of the world, and they once more reveal the aggressive plans and warlike and barbarous nature of the Yankee imperialists".

Denouncing and vigorously condemning these acts by the Johnson government and its Saigon puppets, the E.S. "resolutely demands an end to all these provocations against the Kingdom of Cambodia".

The Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL expressed confidence "that the struggle against U.S. aggression and in defense of the independence and sovereignty of the Cambodian people, will be successful", and called on all the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America and all progressive persons throughout the world to demand that the Johnson government immediately put an end to the aggressive provocations and the attacks against the Kingdom of Cambodia and urged them to take more effective measures to support the just struggle of the Cambodian people.

THE OSPAAAL SUPPORTS STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT

On March 1st, the Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL expressed its support for a statement issued by the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front on February 28th, 1967.

The Executive Secretariat vigorously condemned the intensification of the Yankee imperialists' policy of aggression in South Viet Nam; rejected the "false arguments of the Johnson Administration regarding peace negotiations; demanded that the Yankee imperialists withdraw their troops from South Viet Nam, immediately and unconditionally

halt the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the strafing of the population, and recognize the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front as the only and legitimate representative of the South Vietnamese people".

The Secretariat of the OSPAAAL called on the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the rest of the peoples of the world to increase their solidarity with Viet Nam, offering this country their moral, political and material support, especially through the coordination of the revolutionary struggle throughout the world in which all types of tactics are used to defeat, together with the heroic Vietnamese people, the Yankee imperialists.

The same appeal is made to the governments of the socialist countries and the progressive governments, to the national and international organizations, urging them "to support unconditionally the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people and the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front, the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, absolute masters of the situation in South Viet Nam".

OSPAAAL DELEGATION TOURS MIDDLE EAST

Damascus, March 17.—A delegation of the Permanent Secretariat of the OSPAAAL arrived in the Syrian capital for a meeting with the leaders of the Syrian chapter of this Organization and of the Organization of Solidarity with the Afro-Asian Peoples and with the regional leadership of the Arab Socialist Resurgence Party (BAAS).

A few hours after its arrival, the delegation was received by President Nureddin El Atassi of Syria. The interview, which lasted an hour, was attended by Ross Massod, representative of Pakistan, and delegates Narciso Rabell of Puerto Rico and Domingo Amuchastegui of Cuba.

Habit Hadad, member of the Political Bureau of the BAAS party, and the members of the delegation gave a press conference in which they explained the aims of the Week of Solidarity with Viet Nam.

APPEALS AND MESSAGES

OSMANY CIENFUEGOS IN HANOI

Hanoi, March 16.—Speaking at a huge mass meeting held in this capital in conmemoration of the Week of Solidarity with the Vietnamese people, Osmany Cienfuegos, General Secretary of the OSPAAAL, urged all progressive forces in the world to concentrate their efforts on multilateral aid to the Vietnamese people, "including the sending of volunteers" whenever they may need them.

"Our delegation—Cienfuegos said—has spent several days in the DRV, has toured part of the country, has visited production centers in the cities and the rural areas, has talked with the people and their leaders, has witnessed the attacks of the enemy planes, and has seen the destruction caused by the Yankee bombs dropping on populated districts, pagodas and churches, hospitals and schools.

"In spite of these brutal attacks —the Vietnamese people are resisting the powerful U.S. military machine with unlimited optimism, and are dealing the imperialists the most serious blows they have ever received in their history of crime, intrigue and slander".

The General Secretary of the OSPAAAL stressed the unlimited support of this Organization for the struggle of the Vietnamese people. "We resolutely support the four points of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Five Point Declaration of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front", he said.

Pointing out that the OSPAAAL condemns the new steps in the escalation of U.S. aggression, Cienfuegos stated: "We unceasingly denounce the deceitful and cynical peace offers voiced by Yankee imperialism, and we hail the touching appeal of President Ho Chi Minh to his people, which is also an appeal to all the revolutionary people of the world, to all the men who struggle for independence and progress".

The delegation headed by Cienfuegos also includes Abilio Duarte, representative of the Guinea Bissau, Co Sang Chung, of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Carlos Lechuga, Under Secretary General of the OSPAAAL, all members of the Executive Secretariat of the Tricontinental Solidarity Organization.

VISIT TO LAOS

The inaugural ceremony at the opening of the Week of Solidarity with the Vietnamese People, called by the Executive Secretariat of OSPAAAL with Viet Nam, was held in the city of San Neua and in other Laotian cities.

Speeches were delivered by Prince Sophanouvong, president of the Neo Lao Haksat Party; Osmany Cienfuegos, General Secretary of the OSPAAAL, and Sisana Sisane, member of the Central Committee of the Neo Lao Haksat Party and president of the Laotian Committee of Afro-Asian Solidarity.

Osmany Cienfuegos also participated in another mass rally held in the liberated area of Laos, at which Sithon Commadan, vice-president of the Neo Lao Haksat Party, delivered the main, speech.

Another meeting was held in a huge cave in the Laotian mountains in honor of the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people against U.S. aggression.

APPEALS AND MESSAGES

ACTIVITIES IN CAIRO

The delegation of the Executive Secretariat on the OSPAAAL met on March 2, with the representatives of the organizations of National Liberation accredited in Cairo, as well as several leaders of the war.

The delegation which spent several days in Cairo was made up of Domingo Amuchastigui of Cuba, Ross Massod of Pakistan and Narciso Rabell of Puerto Rico.

The delegates of the OSPAAAL were received by the minister of Propaganda of the UAR, Mohamed Fayek,

and met twice with the secretary general of the National Committee of Solidarity of the UAR, Yussef El Sebai.

RETURN TO HAVANA

Osmany Cienfuegos, General Secretary of the OSPAAAL, returned to Havana on the 21st after visiting several countries of Southeast Asia.

WE ARE IN THE PERIOD OF THE REBELLION OF THE OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD

Complete text of the Joint Declaration signed by the delegation of the OSPAAAL visiting the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam:

At the invitation of the Committee of Afro-Asian Solidarity of Viet Nam, one of the components of the First Tricontinental Conference held in Havana in January, 1966, a delegation of the OSPAAAL arrived in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in the last days of February and beginning of March, 1967.

The delegation includes:

Osmany Cienfuegos, General Secretary of the OSPAAAL.

Carlos Lechuga, Assistant Secretary General.

Ko Sang Joong, representative of the DPR of Korea on the Secretariat of the OSPAAAL.

Abilio Duarte, Representative of the Conference of Nationalist Organizations of the Portuguese Colonies on the Secretariat of the OSPAAAL.

During their stay in Viet Nam, the delegation has been warmly received by the Committee of Afro-Asian Solidarity of Viet Nam and by the Vietnamese people.

The delegation has visited the Museum of the Revolution and the Museum of the Vietnamese Army and reaffirmed the fact that the Vietnamese people have had a long history and throughout this history they have had an equally long record of heroic struggle.

The delegation has visited some industrial and agricultural centers in the DRV, has come in contact with the workers, the farmers and other social sectors and has been able to confirm the fact that the Vietnamese people are optimistically engaged in combat as well as production.

The delegation has also visited the places attacked by the Yankee Air Force recently and has witnessed the crimes perpetrated by the Yankee imperialists in populated areas, economic units, school districts, hospitals, markets, dams, etc...

The delegation has had the honor of meeting President Ho Chi Minh, and General Vo Nguyen Giap, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense, informed our delegation of the brilliant feats and the fighting spirit of the army and people of Viet Nam in their struggle for the salvation of their homeland.

APPEALS AND MESSAGES

CORRECT POLICY OF THE NLF

The delegation has visited the permanent mission of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front in Hanoi and through the mission it has become acquainted with the new crimes

perpetrated by the Yankee in South Viet Nam —crimes which have no parallel in medieval times or Nazi Germany. Through the mission it has also learned how the Yankee imperialists have suffered tremendous defeats in their first and second dry-season counter-offensives.

The delegation once more ratifies the correct policy of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front, and it is firmly convinced that the Vietnamese people will achieve final victory in their struggle to emancipate themselves —under the leadership of the Front— from the aggressive yoke of Yankee imperialism.

The delegation of the OSPAAAL and the Secretariat of the Committee of Afro-Asian Solidarity of Viet Nam have exchanged opinions on the problems concerning the two organizations.

The two parties unanimously agree that: The only cause of the serious situation in Viet Nam is the aggressive policy of the Yankee imperialists. The U.S. Administration has trampled on the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and has installed in power a Saigon puppet regime and its mercenary army against the wishes of the South Vietnamese people in an attempt to turn South Viet Nam into a neo-colonialist U.S. military base and to prolong territorial division in Viet Nam.

APPEALS AND MESSAGES

THE U.S. HYPOCRITICALLY TALKS OF PEACE

In the face of the heroic resistance of the South Vietnamese people, the imperialists have landed U.S. and satellite troops in that country to take direct part in the war.

So far, 400 thousand U.S. troops have arrived in South Viet Nam. They have committed many ignominious crimes there. At the same time, the U.S. authorities have sent thousands of planes to bomb the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, an independent and sovereign country. Recently, the long-range Yankee artillery emplaced south of the 17th parallel has shelled the North and attacked the North Vietnamese Navy, while the U.S. Air Force bombed the industrial districts of Thai Nguyen, Ha Bac, Quang Ninh, the provincial capital of Hongaia and densely populated areas in the city of Haiphong.

This is a very serious step forward in the escalation of the war. Meanwhile, the U.S. imperialists continue to voice their treacherous offers of peace negotiations in order to conceal the escalation and the intensification of their military activities and in order to appease public opinion among the progressive peoples, of the world, including the progressive sectors in the United States, who are vigorously repudiating the aggressive U.S. policy.

The two parties resolutely condemn the innumerable crimes perpetrated by the Yankees in North and South Viet Nam and agree that the U.S. imperialists are the most vicious enemies of the peoples of the world.

The two parties state that the struggle that the people of Viet Nam are waging to defend the North, liberate the South and reunify the country is an absolutely just cause, and they firmly support the declaration of the Central Committee of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front, dated Feb. 28th, 1967, and the declaration issued by the Foreign Ministry

of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on March 11th, 1967, and reiterate that the four point position of the DRV is in accordance with the essential provisions of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and the five points of the National Liberation Front as a correct basis for settling the Vietnamese problem. The Yankees must put an end to their aggressive war in Viet Nam unconditionally and once and for all stop the bombing and other military activities against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, recognize the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front and allow the Vietnamese people to solve their own problems. That is the only way to bring real peace to Vietnamese territory. Peace must be accompanied by freedom and independence. As President Ho Chi Minh said: "There is nothing so precious as independence and freedom".

APPEALS AND MESSAGES

The delegation of the OSPAAAL and the Secretariat of the Committee of Afro-Asian Solidarity of Viet Nam unanimously raise their voice to condemn the Yankee imperialists who, while attacking Viet Nam are intensifying their special war in Laos, using their Air Force to carry out vicious raids against the liberated areas of the Neo Lao Haksat, are threatening the peace and neutrality of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and threatening to extend the war to all of Indochina. The two parties demand that the aggressive Yankees immediately put an end to these insolent actions.

The delegation of the OSPAAAL reiterates the unanimity of opinions in the Tricontinental Conference held in Havana in January, 1966, e.g.: "The struggle of the Vietnamese people constitutes a direct and vigorous support for the national liberation movement of the peoples of the three continents and a luminous example which inspires progressive humanity". Therefore, the organization of solidarity of the peoples of three continents, together with the other peoples of the world, continues to actively support the just cause of the Vietnamese people and reiterates its conviction that the heroic Vietnamese people with triumph.

THE EPOCH OF THE UPRISINGS OF THE PEOPLES

The Secretariat of the Committee of Solidarity of the Afro-Asian peoples of Viet Nam greets the Secretariat of the OSPAAAL for its initiative in organizing a "Week of Tricontinental Solidarity with Viet Nam" from March 13th to March 19th, 1967, in order to speed up the movement of support for Viet Nam among the countries and expresses its gratitude to the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and the whole world for the activities carried out on behalf of Viet Nam.

In regard to the present day situation in the world and the activities of the Tricontinental organization, the delegation of the OSPAAAL and the Committee of Afro-Asian Solidarity of Viet Nam consider that: This is the epoch of the decline and deterioration of imperialism and colonialism, the epoch of the uprising of the oppressed peoples. Any people of the world, no matter how small it may be, if it strongly unites and resolutely struggles to

win independence, freedom and a better life, can defeat imperialism —even an imperialism as vicious as Yankee imperialism. The two parties reiterate their firm support for the national liberation movements of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America who are struggling against colonialism and neo-colonialism.

The two parties express their firm conviction that the cause of solidarity and the national independence struggle, the cause of social progress and peace of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, will triumph. Day by day this struggle will win more luminous victories.

The documents is signed by Osmany Cienfuegos as head of the delegation of the OSPAAAL, and Ton Quang Phiet as president of the Committee of Afro-Asian Solidarity of Viet Nam.

APPEALS AND MESSAGES

Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL, Havana, Cuba.

All the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America commemorate today the first action of the people of Saigon Cholon against U. S. imperialism. Seventeen years ago, our South Vietnamese brothers and friends organized a huge demonstration against the presence of U.S. warships in the port of Saigon. With this demonstration, the South Vietnamese people showed the world that the potential enemy was U.S. imperialism and not the defeated and dying French colonialism. They also denounced the publicity and the lack of patriotism of the leaders who were imposed on them.

We, the Cambodian people, also know that the United States is determined to impose its domination on the peoples of Indochina after the expected and inevitable withdrawal of France. But we are strongly united and we trust in the leaders freely elected by the khmers, who have found they way to recover their independence and to safeguard it in spite of U.S. promises, pressures and threats.

The arrival of two U.S. warships at the port of Saigon on March 19th, 1950, was the first step in the military escalation of the most barbarous colonial war in history. Would that the long ordeal of the heroic South Vietnamese people serve as a warning to all the Afro-Asian and Latin American countries the United States has decided to enslave! The national resistance of Viet Nam to the U.S. invaders proves that the Vietnamese people are ready to make all sacrifices to defend their independence. It is also the duty of all countries and all peoples, of all men to whom the word justice means something, to give their complete support to those who are heroically struggling for freedom.

The most categorical censure of U.S. aggression will not deter the Washington leaders from their criminal undertakings. The material aid to the Vietnamese patriots of the National Liberation Front and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is a noble manifestation of solidarity, but it will always be but an insufficient support of the Vietnamese people in their struggle against U.S. military power.

On this anniversary, I would like to recall our proposal to the Triconti-

nental Conference held in Havana in January, 1966. This proposal called for breaking all political, diplomatic, economic and cultural ties with the United States. I renew this proposal today to the justice-loving countries, to the countries which are resolutely opposed to imperialism and which support the Vietnamese people's struggle for the protection of their most sacred rights. In the face of the great incapacity of the great powers and of the international organizations to put an end to U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, non-cooperation with the United States is the most efficient means and the even (illegible) means at our disposal to efficiently support its victims. Cambodia, for its part, a non-aligned country, an economically and militarily weak country, has already set the example.

Norodom Sihanouk

REVOLUTIONARY OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE REACTIONARY LEONI GOVERNMENT

The politico-military offensive unleashed by the revolutionary forces in Venezuela during the past months give way to a new situation within the existing political crisis in that country. Actually, the revolutionary movement has fully reached a stage of recovery as a result of its own willingness to take the initiative in the face of the reactionary Leoni government; of intensifying the armed struggle in the countryside and in the cities; of carry-

ing out a political campaign unmasking the Leoni pro-imperialist regime and denouncing it as the cause of the counterrevolutionary violence.

To reach the point of unleashing such an offensive, the Venezuelan revolutionary movement has had to wage important battles against the weak and conciliating positions of the so-called democratic peace policy, which is trying to convert the popular forces into a simple appendage of the ruling sectors. As a result of the development of this rightist policy during 1964, 1965 and part of 1966 the revolutionary movement faced serious difficulties which led to inactivity and stagnatiton with the respective results of skepticism and confusion in the heart of the masses. It was necessary to carry out a profound ideological and political struggle against incorrect positions; it was necessary to develop intense public polemics to unmask the rightists before the people; it was necessary to carry out individual struggles in every concrete situation to restrain those who —having lost faith in victory— opened the way to anti-revolutionary agreements. As a result of this process, important regroupings of forces occurred in the heart of the revolutionary movement, which under better conditions launched a more powerful offensive in the mountains and cities against the enemy.

During the months of October, November and December of last year and February and March of this year, diverse military operations were carried out mainly by the UTC in Caracas and by the "Simon Bolivar" Guerrilla Front in the Lara region, the "Ezequiel Zamora" Guerrilla Front in the region of El Bachiller and, the "José Leonardo Chirinos" Guerrilla Front in the Falcon region. These operations inflicted nu-

merous casualties on the reactionary army, permitted the seizing of enemy arms and, what is more important, built morale and encouraged the revolutionary movement and the people to recognize the importance that these operations have in the task of increasing the revolutionary armed struggle as a real perspecitve of victory in Venezuela.

This politico-military offensive is today the principal factor within the political crisis in Venezuela. In the years of the crisis in the revolutionary movement, the Leoni regime could solve its internal problems without serious complications. A series of governmental crises succeeded one another without the weight of the popular forces being felt within those situations. But that has changed. Now as a result of the revolutionary action the government has unleashed repression, has suspended for two consecutive times constitutional guaranties, has intensified its policy against autonomy and the democratic content of the University, and has brought the country to a state of emergency. Its pro-imperialist and repressive nature has sharpened and instead of solving that crisis —as the democratic peace leaders suppose— it intensifies its reactionary counter-offensive. As the revolutionary movement intensifies its offensive, this crisis will become more acute and the internal problems between a regime that cannot annihilate the guerrillas and the ruling sectors who are seeking a new formula of force in their useless attempt to restrain and corner the revolutionary movement will be increased.

This new situation that is developing is one of the many situations that the revolutionary movement in Venezuela will have to face in its prolonged struggle for national liberation.

TRICONTINENTAL NEWS

AFRICA

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of the UAR, reiterated his support for the Front of Liberation of Occupied Southern Yemen (FLOSY). The Egyptian head of State made the statement to the General Secretary of the patriotic Yemen organization, Abdul Kawee Mackawee, during a meeting of the two in Cairo.

GUINEA

In his speech before thousands of militiamen in Conarky, the President of Guinea, Sekou Toure, stated: "The militia's main task is to defend the achievements of the revolution". The President of Guinea also pointed out the need to continue at all cost the country's national revolutiton.

ASIA

LAOS

From November, 1966, to February, 1967, Laotian patriots waged four battles in the provinces of Sam Neua and Xiem Kuang, killing 248 enemy soldiers, shooting down one U.S. F-105 jet, and capturing a large number of arms.

Another cable reported that the patriotic Laotian forces killed and wounded dozens of enemy soldiers during a counterattack north of Attopeu.

"The Voice of Laos" radio announced that after having been defeated last Jan. during operations against Lower Laos the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys launched an attack against the liberated zone north of Attopeu. During this action the Popular Army of Liberation intercepted two enemy battalions and three companies, causing the aggressors numerous casualties and capturing large quantities of U.S.-made arms and military equipment.

CAMBODIA

Cambodian anti-aircraft downed an enemy plane and a helicopter over Cambodian territory. Both formed a part of a U.S. squadron which was violating the air space over Tapiang Pholog, in the province of Kompongcham.

"With every passing day the war in Viet Nam is becoming more and more a Cambodian war", stated the Cambodian Head of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in a speech at a meeting in Phom Penh.

ADEN

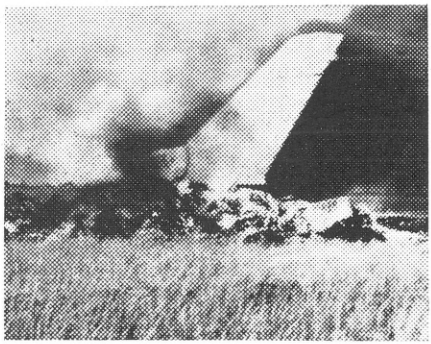
The wave of patriotic actions carried out by the Front of Liberation of Occupied Southern Yemen is increasing by the day. Cables reported that a British soldier was killed when a hand grenade was thrown at colonial troops in the town of Sheik Othamm.

A fire destroyed the headquarters of the South Arabian League (SAL), a reactionary organization Likewise a hand grenade was thrown at the automobile driven by the Secretary General of the League, Sheik Akhoibshi, who escaped injury.

Another cable reported that heavily armed British soldiers guard the Aden waterfront area where there have been numerous explosions, including one in the U.S. owned pipeline belonging to the Esso Standard Oil Co.

Elsewhere the Front of Liberation of Occupied Southern Yemen (FLOSY) has denounced the fact that veteran members of the French Foreign Legion and West German mercenaries participated in repressive and terrorist actions carried out by the so-called Federation of South Arabia.

The FLOSY stated that these mercenary groups dynamited the home of this organization's General Secretary, Abdul Kawee Mackawee, causing the death of his three children. One communique issued by the Front points out that the FLOSY has decided to return blow for blow, meeting out the death penalty to the members of the mercenary groups as well to the leaders who cover up their criminal activities.



VIET NAM

The peoples of North and South Viet Nam continue their fight against the aggressive U.S. imperialists and their lackeys. During recent weeks cables have reported numerous actions carried out in this Southeast Asian country.

One cable reported that over 80 Yankee Marines were put out of action in a series of surprise commando attacks by the LAF. The largest losses suffered by the U.S. troops occurred in the Khe San camp, when patriotic forces launched a mortar attack causing the enemy 12 deaths and 52 wounded. This

was the first time guerrilla fighters used mortar fire in attacking the camp, located close to the 17th parallel.

Units of the Liberation Armed Forces attacked with light artillery the Tru Loi air base, in the province of Quang Nam. This was the fifth time South Vietnamese patriots attacked the base. U.S. losses amounted to 165 dead and 52 U.S. jets damaged.

The gigantic Da Nang Air Base, from where the majority of the bombers take off for bombing missions over North Viet Nam, was heavily attacked by South Viet Nam guerrilla forces, who used mortars, rockets and other heavy weapons.

The U.S. destroyer "Keppler" came under direct fire by the Coast Guard artillery of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. At the time the destroyer was attacking North Vietnamese territory some 50 kilometers north Vinh.

U.S. troops of the 173 Air Transport Brigade suffered heavy losses when attacked by South Viet Nam guerrillas in the province of Tay Ninh, scene of the unsuccessful "Junction City" operations.

The Pentagon revealed as of May that 498 thousand U.S. soldiers will be stationed in South Viet Nam. Meanwhile, the LAF wiped out in a matter of 32 minutes a complete sector of U.S. soldiers during a heavy combat in the province of Phu Yen, 350 kilometers northeast of Saigon.

News dispatches report that South Viet Nam guerrilla forces launched two mortar attacks against U.S. long-range artillery posts, some 13 kilometers from the demilitarized zone on the 17th parallel.

LATIN AMERICA

GUATEMALA

In clashes with guerrilla forces in two of the country's mountain zones, government troops suffered losses, among the dead were one police lieutenant and two soldiers. The clashes took place near Mataquescuintla, in the department of Verapaz.

The Chief of Police in Retalhuleu, Captain Cesar Augusto de Leon, was killed in a skirmish between government roops and guerrilla forces operating in the zone.

The headquarters of the Revolutionary Leadership of the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) inssued a statement pointing out that "after eight months in power the government of Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro completely revealed itself as a puppet of Yankee imperialism and the country's ruling classes."

COLOMBIA

Eighty guerrilla fighters of the National Liberation Army (ELN) attacked a payroll train which runs between Barrancabermeja and Bucaramanga, causing the death of nine police agents who were guarding it. The attack, which took place in the area of Vizcaina, Santander, was a complete victory for the patriots.

Repressive government forces have arrested hundreds of persons in an attempt by the Colombian ruling class to put an end to the national liberation struggle which has increased during the past months.

President Carlos Lleras Restrepo refused a request made by a parliamentary group for amnesty of political prisoners, telling them they would remain in prison because "in Colombia democratic legality has ceased, since the country is in a state of war."

VENEZUELA

A police sergeant was wounded during a demonstration held by university students near the Caracas University Stadium. The incident began when hundreds of students from the Central University protested against the university regulation which limits university autonomy exclusively to administration and faculty.

The DIGEPOL (political police) used gunfire and tear gas in an attack on prisoners who mutinied in this organization's main prison in Chaguaramos.

A military garrison in the city of Maracaibo was fired on by armed commandos from a speeding automobile.

Meanwhile, guerrilla fighters killed Meleyio Lambaeta, guilty of numerous crimes against the peasants in the El Tocuyo zone.

Armed clashes have also been reported in other mountainous regions. Guerrilla fighters heavily attacked an army camp in Vorozo Pando, causing the death of one officer and capturing a large quantity or arms.

AMERICO MARTIN'S MESSAGE TO VENEZUELA'S MIR MILITANTS

From the "El Bachiller" mountains, in the "Ezequiel Zamora" guerrilla front district, the General Secretary (in charge) of the MIR has sent an important letter to the cadres and militants of the revolutionary movement and the Venezuelan people in general. In this letter, he announces his fighting presence in the guerrilla movement, discusses the principal tasks awaiting the revolutionary and democratic movement in its present stage, and makes a fervent appeal for all the energies of the popular movement to be brought into maximum tension in the struggle for the unity of revolutionaries and for the firm and progressive development of the weapons of the revolutionary war and the conquest of Venezuelan liberation.

The letter explains the line of that organization, aimed at transferring the site of its political leadership to the mountains. In fact, Americo Martin points out: "...My presence in the "Ezequiel Zamora" guerrilla front represents an important step in the carrying out of one of the basic resolutions of our Party in accordance with the line adopted by the Secretariat in January, 1964, and by the Second National Conference of March, 1965, regarding the establishment of the site of the national leadership of the revolutionary movement in the mountains, as a logical result of stressing the role of the rural guerrillas within the framework of the people's armed struggle for the defense of the homeland.

The letter analyzes the principal problems facing the revolutionary and democratic movement in Venezuela at present. Within the democratic camp there is a growing tendency toward conciliation and participation in elections..." this deviation is characterized by the inclination to sacrifice —in theory and practice— the nationalist and anti-imperialist scope of the struggle and to reduce the movement to an opposition aimed purely at combatting administrative chaos, the appropriation of public money for personal use, the rising cost of living, police persecution, etc. Its principal manifestation at present is its support for elections —the creation of an electoral climate amid increasing repression, the abandonment of the popular struggles in order to pave the way for elections, the pacts with anti-popular sectors, the fear of alliances with leftist sectors in order to reach agreements with rightist organizations which seem to offer electoral advantages, and the ascribing —in practice— of a democratic character to a government that is not democratic..."

In the revolutionary field, the letter expresses the principal contradiction between the union of the revolutionaries on the basis of a revolutionary political and military policy and those who, from their posts in the VCP, intensify their struggle against that line. These contradictitons require the revolutionary movement to intensify the

struggles against rightist sectors, multiply and systematize the struggle against the defeatist positions of those who attempt to deviate the revolutionary and popular forces from anti-imperialist and national liberation objectives.

On the other hand —the letter adds — the problems in the heart of the revolutionary movement at present must be solved by promoting unity at the base and by stressing the common points in order to arrive at higher forms of unity, even though this may be a long process. Together with the unification process at the base —the letter adds— every effort must be made to reach minimum agreements between the revolutionary forces, so as to insure conditions of struggle, better coordination of the offensives of the revolutionary detachments and better methods of fighting side by side against the imperialist enemy.

In conclusion, the letter ratifies the criterion of that organization regarding the lasting nature of the Venezuelan war, the armed struggle as a superior form of the political struggle, insisting on the need for increasing the organized masses at the base of the revolutionary army, and calling on the Party and the youth organization to close ranks in order to develop solidarity activities and mass activities in support of the armed revolutionary struggle.

Ivan Urbina, Venezuelan delegate to the Executive Secretariat of the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America (OSPAAAL), left for Ulan Bator on March, 23rd.

Urbina will represent the OSPAAAL as an observer at the Ninth Congress of the International Union of Students to be held in the capital of the People's Republic of Mongolia.

He was accompanied to the airport by Joaquin Mas, Assistant General Secretary of the OSPAAAL, and other members of the Executive Secretariat.

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